

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the abstract at page 126, line 3, to page 127, line 11, as follows:

An auction system is disclosed in which a submitting node device is configured to transmit to an auction management device product information describing a product, re-auction information indicating whether or not the product is to be re-auctioned when an initial auction fails to result in a transaction, and sale conditions information including sale conditions for the product. The auction management device is configured to present said product for auction, based on said product information. The auction management device is also configured to receive at least one bid indicating purchase conditions from at least one bidding node device. Additionally, the auction management device is configured to determine whether the purchase conditions match the sale conditions. The auction management device is also configured to, when (i) the purchase conditions do not match the sale conditions and (ii) the re-auction information indicates that the product is to be re-auctioned, re-present said product for auction. To provide a system, apparatus, and method enabling active e-commerce including network auctions. First, when a transaction fails to be established by an auction, a sponsor resets a minimum reserve lower based on the highest bid and automatically proceeds to a re-auction. At this time, a description introducing the product for auction, the category of the product, the auction period, and other auction conditions are changed in accordance with need. Due to this, the percentage of transactions established becomes higher. Also, when an auction is successfully concluded, the sponsor transmits information of the successfully bid product, information of the submitter, and information of the successful bidder to a shipper. The shipper calculates

a shipping fee, calculates an insurance fee from the successful bid, finds a scheduled pickup date and time and scheduled delivery date time for the actual shipping, and returns this information. The sponsor transmits this information added to the information of result of the successful bid to the submitter and the successful bidder. The submitter and the successful bidder need only make payment and pack and send the product, so there is no troublesome procedures and the actual transaction of the product can be completely quickly. Further, required information relating to a service provided on the network is stored in a storage means connected to the network as evidence information. When trouble arises, petition information is send through the network to a trial processor to raise an accusation against the service. The trial processor renders a judgement on the accusation based on the petition information and the evidence information stored by the storage means. Due to this, it is possible to quickly resolve trouble occurring at the time of e-commerce transactions.